

MATHEWS BRAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

PUBLIC USE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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PUBLIC USE REQUIREMENTS
INFORMAL REVIEW FORM

Instructions: Fill in blanks and attach to Public Use Development Plan

District/Zone 4 Station Name Mathews Brake NWR Station Number

Requirements	Requirement Compliance? (Yes, No, N/A)	\$ Cost Estimate to Meet Requirement (only if "No" compliance)
1. Set station public use goals	Yes	\$ <u> </u>
2. Project a positive attitude	Yes	\$ <u> </u>
3. Welcome and orient visitors	No	\$ <u>3,000.</u>
4. Develop key resources awareness	Yes	\$ <u> </u>
5. Provide observation opportunities	Yes	\$ <u> </u>
6. Provide teacher assistance	No	\$ <u>5,000.</u>
7. Maintain quality hunting program	Yes	\$ <u> </u>
8. Maintain quality fishing program	Yes	\$ <u> </u>
9. Manage cultural resources	N/A	\$ <u> </u>
10. Explore public assistance opportunities for field station operations	No	\$ <u>2,000.</u>

* Compliance must be filled in on all Public Use Requirements as one of the following:

- Yes - Requirement category has been met.
- No - Requirement category has not been met.
- N/A - Requirement category is not applicable to this station.

\$ Funds estimated as necessary to meet the category requirement.
(Listed for "No" only)

PUBLIC USE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
FOR MATHEWS BRAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
CHAPTER 1. PUBLIC USE GOALS

National Public Use Requirement #1: SET STATION PUBLIC USE GOALS

The goals for the public use functions at Mathews Brake National Wildlife Refuge are as follows:

A. Interpretation

Interpret refuge management activities and how they benefit wildlife and/or public recreation.

B. Outdoor Classrooms

Do not initiate any refuge environmental education efforts.

C. Educational Assistance

Provide support material to local educators to facilitate use of established study area.

D. Program Information

Provide information concerning the refuge and its programs to the interested public.

E. Fish and Wildlife/Wildlands-Oriented Recreation

Provide opportunities where possible for recreation compatible with station goals and objectives.

F. Non-Fish and Wildlife-Oriented Recreation

Maintain the current level of non-use in this category.

G. Dedicated Areas/Cultured Resources

Protect and preserve any future archaeological or historical sites found on the refuge.

CHAPTER 2. PUBLIC RELATIONS

National Public Use Requirement #2: PROJECT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Present Conditions

- A. At present all refuge employees should be able to answer questions concerning the refuge. If this is not possible, the information will be obtained from others and relayed to the visitor as quickly as possible.
- B. Refuge employees wear the prescribed uniform as directed in 3 AM 3.
- C. Copies of material published or broadcast will be kept on file.

Improvements Needed

- A. New employees will be briefed on refuge programs during their initial orientation.
- B. Present programs dealing with the refuge and its management to any interested conservation or civic organization.

CHAPTER 3. VISITOR WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

National Public Use Requirement #3: WELCOME AND ORIENT VISITORS

Present Conditions

- A. A map is contained in the general leaflet that lists the main roads of the refuge.
- B. Major entrance signs list the opportunities available on the refuge.

Improvements Needed

- A. Post the hours the refuge will open to the public near all major and minor entrances to the refuge. Improve signing. Local public dislike refuge efforts to direct the general public to the refuge. Signs usually don't last long!
- B. Develop slide program for public viewing.
- C. Erect kiosk at suitable site on the refuge.
- D. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position.

CHAPTER 4. INTERPRETATION

National Public Use Requirement #4: DEVELOP KEY RESOURCES AWARENESS

Present Conditions

- A. The refuge leaflet addresses key resources present on the refuge.
- B. Environmental education programs are considered a very low priority.

Improvements Needed

- A. Orient public to proper use of resources.
- B. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position and Law Enforcement position.

CHAPTER 5. NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

National Public Use Requirement #5: PROVIDE OBSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

Present Conditions

- A. Fall and winter bring thousands of ducks to winter on the 700 acre natural lake within the refuge.
- B. A list of mammals and birds is available upon request.

Improvements Needed

- A. Develop a "Calendar of Wildlife Events".
- B. An observation tower should be constructed where waterfowl can be observed.
- C. Provide better access to viewing areas.

CHAPTER 6. TEACHER ASSISTANCE

National Public Use Requirement #6: PROVIDE TEACHER ASSISTANCE

Present Conditions

No Activity

Improvements Needed

- A. As public knowledge of what the refuge has to offer becomes widely known, provide a handout for area educators.
- B. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position.

CHAPTER 7. CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION - HUNTING

National Public Use Requirement #7: MAINTAIN QUALITY HUNTING PROGRAMS

Present Conditions

- A. Small game and deer hunting is allowed on the refuge.
- B. Hunting brochures are reviewed annually and changed as necessary to improve quality of hunts.

Improvements Needed

- A. Collect biological data through check stations and law enforcement patrols.
- B. Post "closed areas".
- C. Limit seasons on specific wildlife species.
- D. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position and Law Enforcement Tech. position.

CHAPTER 8. CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION - FISHING

National Public Use Requirement #8: MAINTAIN QUALITY FISHING PROGRAM

Present Condition

Fishing is open year-round on the refuge. In spring bass and other game fish enter the shallow water areas to spawn. They feed on microscopic plants and animals, throughout spring and early summer. Fishing on the refuge is one of the area's most popular sports.

Improvements Needed

- A. Update refuge fishing brochure.
- B. Build boat ramp.

CHAPTER 9. DEDICATED AREAS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

National Public Use Requirement #9: MANAGE CULTURAL RESOURCES

Present Conditions

No Activity

Improvements Needed

A. Maintain any cultural resources which may be found on the refuge.

CHAPTER 10. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

National Public Use Requirement #10: EXPLORE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIELD STATION OPERATIONS

Present Conditions

No Activity

Improvements Needed

A. Recruit one or more volunteers for manning check stations.